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Vehicle transmissions.

It has been proposed to employ a constant mesh gearbox of the kind having pairs of gears on parallel shafts (1, 2) in constant mesh with each other, together with a clutch, in an automatic vehicle transmission. A microprocessor controls actuators for the clutch and throttle and hydraulic actuators for moving the selector rod (3) of the gearbox, in order to give automatic operation of the gearbox.

In accordance with the invention, a constant mesh gearbox of the kind referred to is provided with actuating means (8, 9) for moving the selector shaft (3) and, in at least one direction of travel of the selector rod (3), the actuating means acts via resilient means which is arranged to store the energy of the actuating means when the actuating means is operated but the selector rod is not free to move, the rod being moved by the energised resilient means when the selector rod becomes free. More rapid shifting, and when the gearbox forms part of an automatic transmission, a shorter period of interruption of power, is possible, and reversal of torque during a gearshift can also be avoided.

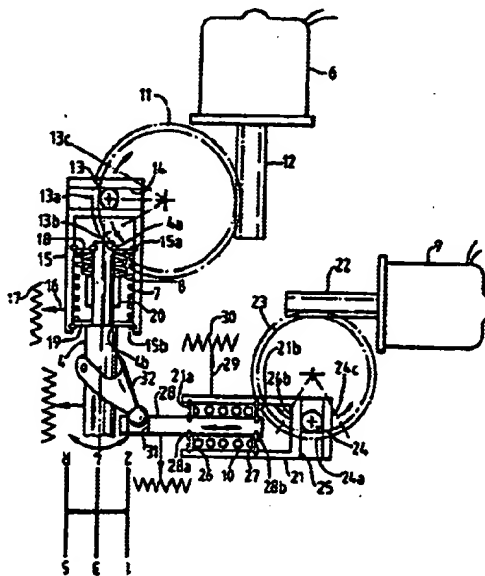


FIG. 2.

EP 0 301 724 A2